

Have You Found a Radiosonde?

Launched from the ground, radiosondes are meteorological devices that are used to measure temperature, humidity, pressure, wind speed and direction in the upper atmosphere. A balloon filled with hydrogen or helium gas carries the radiosonde into the upper atmosphere. When the radiosonde reaches an altitude of approximately 30 km, the balloon bursts and the radiosonde falls back to Earth along with its string, spool and burst balloon.

During the radiosonde's flight, it constantly transmits atmospheric temperature, humidity and pressure data to automated receiving ground equipment. This equipment, called a sounding system, processes and converts the data into meteorological weather messages that are sent to the global weather network. Ozone and radioactivity in the upper atmosphere can also be measured.

If you find a Vaisala radiosonde, it poses no danger to you. It is also made of materials that are benign in the natural environment.

What to do if you find a Vaisala radiosonde

- If there are instructions on the radiosonde cover for returning the device, please follow them.
- If there are no instructions for returning the device and you don't want to keep it, please dispose of it by following your country's guidelines for the disposal of electrical waste.
- If you want to keep the radiosonde, remove the battery and dispose of it in an approved receptacle for used batteries.

If you want more information on Vaisala radiosondes, please contact: **Helpdesk@vaisala.com**